



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR PROYECTO AZTECA

SAN JUAN, TEXAS, October 20, 2005 - Bryan Daniel, State Director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced that Proyecto Azteca received a \$299,500 grant through the Single Family Housing, Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance program, a program that falls under the USDA Rural Development mission area. The effort is part of USDA's national program to help rural areas build and enhance essential housing. To highlight this event, a ceremonial check will be presented to David Arizmendi, Executive Director, Proyecto Azteca of San Juan.

"We are very pleased to be able to award this self-help grant," said Daniel. "The funds will be used to assist 65 families, located in Hidalgo County, Texas, to build their homes through the Self-Help Housing method."

USDA Rural Development makes grants to eligible nonprofit or public organizations to assist low income families who wish to work together to build their own homes. Grant money is used to pay for technical assistance the families may need in constructing the home with their own resources. The savings from the reduction in labor costs, allows otherwise ineligible families to own their homes. Families participating in a mutual self-help project perform approximately 65% of the construction labor on each other's homes.

There are a number of other housing programs available to rural residents including direct and guaranteed housing loans and home repair loans and grants. Single Family Housing loans are available depending on repayment ability and the location of the home or building site. The direct loans are designed to provide low-income families with financing to build, purchase, or repair homes that meet local codes and provide adequate affordable housing. Funds may also be used to modernize or repair a home already owned by an applicant. Special financing is also available for persons 62 years of age or older to repair their homes.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, please contact the Edinburg local office at (956) 383-4928, ext. 4 or visit us on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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